



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/578,353	05/05/2006	Hiroshi Kajitani	8017-1191	8961
466	7590	03/27/2008	EXAMINER	
YOUNG & THOMPSON			MARTIN, ANGELA J	
209 Madison Street				
Suite 500			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			1795	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			03/27/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/578,353	KAJITANI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Angela J. Martin	1795	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 December 2007.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 05 May 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/07.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is responsive to the Amendment filed on December 20, 2007.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, this action is made final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-7, 10-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bécerra et al., U.S. Pat. Application Pub. 2006/0204814 A1.

Rejection of claims 1-7, 10-20 drawn to a fuel cartridge.

Bécerra et al., teach a fuel cartridge for a fuel cell comprising a first chamber for retaining first liquid fuel, said first liquid fuel being a high-concentration liquid fuel; a second chamber for retaining second liquid fuel, said second liquid fuel being a low-concentration liquid fuel (col. 4, lines 24-27); a partition wall for partitioning said first chamber and said second chamber (Fig. 12, bladder walls), and a mounting section to

be fixed to a fuel cell body (Fig. 13, ref. 1302), wherein said second chamber is provided with a fuel outlet port through which said second liquid fuel passes to said fuel cell body (col. 4, lines 24-27; col. 9, lines 43-46), and the fuel cell is removable mountable to said fuel cell body (col. 10, lines 54-56, 66-67 and col. 11, lines 1-2). The fuel cartridge for the fuel cell according to claim 1, wherein said fuel outlet port is further arranged in said first chamber (col. 9, lines 41-43; Fig. 12). The fuel cartridge for the fuel cell according to claim 2, wherein said second chamber further comprises a fuel inlet port to which said first liquid fuel, which passes through said fuel outlet port arranged in said first chamber, is introduced (Fig. 13). The fuel cartridge for the fuel cell according to claim 1, wherein said second chamber is a fuel mixing tank for mixing said first liquid fuel and said second liquid fuel (Fig. 13, col. 10; lines 29-41). The cartridge wherein the first liquid fuel and second liquid fuel are different in color (col. 10, lines 6-18). The fuel cartridge for the fuel cell according to claim 1, further comprising a first container having said first chamber and a second container having said second chamber and constructed so as to be removably mounted to said first container (col. 10, lines 25-28 and lines 66-67 and col. 11, lines 1-2). The fuel cartridge for the fuel cell according to claim 6, further comprising a fitting section at which said first container and said second container are fitted to each other (Fig. 12, ref. 1202). A fuel cell comprising a fuel cell body having a fuel pole and the fuel cartridge for the fuel cell according to claim 1, which contains liquid fuel, to be supplied to said fuel pole (col. 9, lines 13-19). The fuel cartridge for the fuel cell according to claim 1, wherein a liquid surface indication member for indicating the level of a liquid surface of said first liquid fuel or the level of a liquid surface of said

second liquid fuel is arranged in said first chamber or in said second chamber (Fig. 6; col. 7, lines 20-30). The fuel cell according to claim 14, wherein a measurement section for measuring the level of a liquid surface of said first liquid fuel or the level of a liquid surface of said second liquid fuel is arranged in said fuel cell body (Fig. 6; col. 7, lines 20-30).

Thus, the claims are anticipated.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 8, 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bécerra et al., U.S. Pat. Application Pub. 2006/0204814 A1, in view of Prased et al., U.S. Pat. Application Pub. 2003/0138679 A1 or Bullock et al. U.S. Pat. Application Pub. 2003/0207158 A1 or deVos et al., U.S. Pat. Application Pub. 2005/0079128 A1.

Bécerra et al., teach a fuel cell as described above.

Bécerra et al., do not teach cover member for covering fuel outlet port.

Prased et al., teach a cover member for covering said fuel outlet port, wherein said cover member is formed into a removable sheet (0041); further comprising a cover

member for covering said fuel outlet port, wherein said cover member is an elastic member with a self-sealing characteristic (0036).

Bullock et al., teach a cover member for covering said fuel outlet port, wherein said cover member is formed into a removable sheet (0030-0031); further comprising a cover member for covering said fuel outlet port, wherein said cover member is an elastic member with a self-sealing characteristic (0030-0031).

DeVos et al., teach a cover member for covering said fuel outlet port, wherein said cover member is formed into a removable sheet (0038); further comprising a cover member for covering said fuel outlet port, wherein said cover member is an elastic member with a self-sealing characteristic (0035-0036).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to insert the teachings of Prased et al., or Bullock et al., or DeVos et al., into the teachings of Becerra et al., because the prior art of record teach a self-sealing arrangement prevents leakage from the fuel receptacle.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to above claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Sekino et al., U.S. Pat. Application Pub. 2006/0204814 A1 teach a fuel cell comprising a high and low concentration liquid fuel.

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Angela J. Martin whose telephone number is 571-272-1288. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick Ryan can be reached on 571-272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AJM

Examiner, Art Unit 1795

/PATRICK RYAN/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1795